The Kabul Times DAILY

Founded in 1962

facebook.com/thekabultimes thekabultimes@yahoo.com twitter.com/thekabultimes www.thekabultimes.gov.af

Saratan 19-1400 Saturday 10 July 2021 INo: 91- Vol: LIX

Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Thirty-Nine

The provincial council shall participate in the attainment of the development objectives of the state and improvement of the affairs of the province in the manner prescribe by laws, and shall advise the provincial administrations on related issues. The provincial assembly council shall perform its duties with the cooperation of the provincial administration.

Taliban forcibly displace civilians in Afghanistan

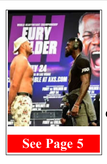
See Page 2

Armed Afghan women take to streets in show of defiance against Taliban

See Page 3

UK economy slowed in May as GDP misses estimates

See Page 4



Tyson Fury vs Deontay Wilder set to be postponed until October due to a Covid-19 outbreak

See Page 5

Finance secretary asked to probe why PayPal is not operating in Pakistan

See Page 6

Taliban has rejected peace proposal: President Ghani

KABUL: President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Thursday said the Taliban rejected a peace proposal and labeled them a terror group.

Addressing a program on mineral's week, President Ghani said that following the US troop withdrawal announcement, Afghanistan has faced problems. But he was confident the problems will be resolved.

According to President, Afghans have a strong will to build their country.

"We proposed peace, whoever rejects peace proposal are rebels, without any doubt," said president Ghani.

President Ghani also said that major economic projects including oil and gas extraction, building of dams and other development projects are underway.

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum said they are going to call for tenders to extract minerals from mines in the country.

The Kabul Times

President Ghani visits Bagram airbase after foreign forces handover

KABUL: The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani visited the Bagram Military Airfield after the international forces handover to the Afghan Security and Defense Forces, few days ago, a statement from the Presidential Press Office said Friday.

Brig Gen. Asadullah Kohistani shared his future plan about the airfield and its security and maintenance with the president, said the Presidential Palace in a statement received by The Kabul Times.

After hearing the details about the military airfield, the president said a high-capacity professional and skilled team should be appointed for the management of the Bagram prison and that an inter-ministerial delegation from the security sector should be designated to investigate about the transferable and nontransferable materials and equipment of the airbase, according to the statement.

The president, as quoted by the statement, also said that a section of the Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan Hospital should be shifted to the Bagram Airport Hospital and this should be assessed if the hospital could be used as civil, military or mixed healthcare center, the statement concluded.

The Kabul Times

Taliban takeover of Afghanistan not inevitable: Biden

KABUL: The United States' military mission in Afghanistan will officially end on August 31, US President Joe Biden announced Thursday during an update on the troop withdrawal process.

Biden stated a Taliban takeover of Afghanistan is "not inevitable" because the Afghan military not only outnumbers the Taliban but is much better equipped.

He also said the US intelligence community's recent warning that Afghanistan's government is on the verge of collapse is "wrong".

Biden's remarks during a press briefing at the White House came after he and Vice President Kamala Harris met with national security leaders for an update on the troop withdrawal process.

He also said: "We did not go to Afghanistan to nation-build, and it is the right and the responsibility of Afghan people alone to decide their future and how they want to run their country."

Biden announced that the US is implementing an evacuation plan to withdraw Afghans who assisted the American military.

Biden said Washington would begin flights this month to relocate Afghan interpreters and other personnel who aided the US military – as well as their families – to third-party countries while they await expedited visa processing to move to the United States.

"There is a home for you in the United States if you so choose, and we will stand with you just as you stood with us," Biden said.

He noted that the US has already approved 2,500 special immigrant visas for Afghans who assisted the US military but said that "up until now, fewer than half have exercised their right to do that."

The Kabul Times

Afghanistan, Pakistan extend trade agreement

KABUL: Afghan and Pakistani officials at a ceremony on Thursday signed the six month extension of the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA).

In this ceremony, Afghan and Pakistani officials appreciated the increase in trade and exports from both sides, Pakistan's ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan said.

He said that the officials "lauded the excellent work of technical teams noting significant progress in negotiations on new APTTA" and that the "Pakistan side welcomed the Afghan offer to host the 9th APTTCA (the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority) in Kabul in August."

According to Khan, Pakistan's Commerce Minister Abdul Razzak Dawood said that he will lead the Pakistan delegation to Kabul along with a large delegation of businesspersons and investors to have an interaction with their Afghan counterparts on the sidelines of the 9th APTTCA meeting.

Afghan and Pakistani officials said that 95 percent of problems in the way of trade and transit between the two countries have been solved. The only problem that has remained is Pakistan's opposition to imports of Indian goods through Pakistan to Afghanistan, Afghan Minister of Industry and Commerce Nisar Ahmad Ghoryani said.

The officials said that a delegation from Pakistan is expected to visit Kabul, solve the issue and sign a new agreement on trade and transit between the two countries.

"The issue that has left is a political issue between them (India and Pakistan) that we don't have the right to interfere. We had progressed in this respect too. We will also get the permission so that the goods are sent to Central Asia," Ghoryani said.

The Kabul Times

MoFA welcomes Tehran meeting on Afghan peace process

KABUL: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the results of the Tehran meeting between a number of representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban.

"The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan appreciates any genuine action that leads to the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the people and the Government of Afghanistan to end the war, ensure lasting peace and preserve the achievements of the last twenty years, the MoFA statement said yesterday.

"We appreciate the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to advance the Afghan peace process and hope that these efforts will lead to an end to the violence and the start of serious negotiations aimed at ensuring lasting peace in the country," the statement further said.

The Taliban delegation and a group of Afghan politicians in Tehran agreed during their meetings on Wednesday and Thursday that war was not the solution to the Afghan problem and that "a peaceful solution should be sought," said a joint declaration with six articles.

The sides also agreed to hold talks in a "cordial atmosphere" on "issues that need further consultation and clarity, such as establishing a mechanism for the transition from war to lasting peace, and the agreed Islamic system and how to achieve it," the declaration said.

The two sides decried attacks targeting "people's homes, schools, mosques, and hospitals, causing civilian casualties" and strongly condemned the destruction of public facilities and called for the perpetrators to be punished, it said.

The two-day meeting between the Taliban delegation and a group of Afghan politicians was held on Wednesday and began with an opening speech by Javad Zarif, Iran's foreign minister.

The Kabul Times

WHO concerned about worsening access in Afghanistan

The World Health Organization is concerned about worsening access to provide life-saving medicines and supplies in Afghanistan and attacks on health care facilities, as Afghan forces fight Taliban insurgents, a WHO official said on Friday.

Rick Brennan, WHO regional emergencies director for its Eastern Mediterranean regional office, said that aid supplies would arrive next week including 3.5 million COVID-19 vaccine doses and oxygen concentrators.

"It is a terribly concerning situation and it's very fluid right now," Brennan, speaking from Cairo, told a U.N. briefing in Geneva. "We are concerned about our lack of access to be able to provide essential medicines and supplies and we are concerned about attacks on health care."